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		Application Number	09/865,021
		Filing Date	May 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	David A. Ferrera
		Group Art Unit	2874
		Examiner Name	Unknown
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	7	Attorney Docket Number	MICRU:57642

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
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<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
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Remarks		
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP	
Signature		
Date	August 3, 2001	

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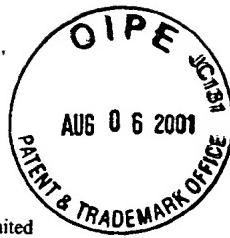
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of)
DAVID A. FERRERA, ET AL.) Prior Examiner: J. KANG
Serial No. 09/865,021) Group Art Unit: 2874
Filed: May 23, 2001)
For: VARIABLE STIFFNESS) Docket No. MICRU 57642
OPTICAL FIBER SHAFT) Los Angeles, California
Date: August 3, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in connection with the above noted continuation application, which is based upon Serial No. 09/219,572 filed December 22, 1998, now Patent No. 6,240,231.

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